

Exploring NZ's historical heritage risks and the policy implications

Linking risk mitigation, cultural values and sustainable communities:

In the context of a highly dynamic seismic environment, how does NZ deal strategically with these ongoing challenges?

New Zealand's historic heritage is under threat from both exogenous and endogenous risks. Due to New Zealand's dynamic landscape, unpredictable hazards pose a potentially catastrophic threat to historic sites. Additionally, historic heritage is under constant development pressure (Rouse & McCracken, 2014). Transformational change can be achieved through protecting the urban characteristics which affect tūrangawaewae, civic pride, cultural well-being and community resilience.

Currently, there are a number of critical and concerning inconsistencies in the management of heritage buildings and Māori taonga tuku iho, or "treasures handed down". These primarily revolve around a lack of appropriate recognition of their public good value. As a source of financial and public good, or non-financial, value (Cowell, 2004), tūrangawaewae and civic pride play key roles in the cultural well-being and resilience of communities. These should be considered equally alongside economic value, but are often under-represented or entirely ignored because of the difficulties in their quantification. Protecting the urban characteristics which influence community well-being can be aided by determining their non-financial value.

We hypothesise that tūrangawaewae, civic pride, cultural well-being and community resilience is associated with the protection and effective management of heritage buildings and Māori taonga tuku iho. Incorporating non-financial aspects into the economic value of these assets will enable urban planning decision-making logic to build better communities which prioritise the holistic well-being of residents and mitigate the risks associated with natural hazards and development pressure. By gaining a better understanding of the public good value inherent in our historic heritage, both local councils and developers will be able to make more systematic, informed, consistent and improved decisions.

QuakeCore: Flagship 5

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"Historic heritage is a finite, non-renewable resource, and it is recognised as being a matter of national importance under section 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Heritage contributes to our sense of place, national identity, and community."

(Rouse & McCracken, 2014)



"Examining civic pride is important because it shapes and reflects the values and inspirations local governments stand for and represent. It provides a basis for thinking about how and why cities promote and defend local identity and autonomy, and how emotions figure within, and are productive for, urban policy" (Collins, 2016, p.176).



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